

The Ventura County and Simi Valley experiences serve as nationwide models of competent law enforcement and a committed citizenry. I applaud those individuals who personally risk their lives to provide us with a safe community and congratulate them on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD V.
WEIDMAN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, for more than 50 years, Donald V. Weidman has been an effective minister of the Christian gospel. Since 1987, he has served with distinction as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the statewide association of the more than 1,900 churches and 625,000 members affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Recently, he announced plans to retire effective August 31, 1997.

As early as the 1940's, Don was a member and leader of gospel music groups that traveled extensively in the Midwest. Later, he would enter full-time ministry and serve as the pastor of growing churches in DeSoto, St. Louis, Liberty, and Kansas City, MO. As a denomination statesman, he served with distinction as second vice president of the 16-million member Southern Baptist Convention and as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention. He has been on the boards of trustees for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX; William Jewell College in Liberty, MO; and Baptist Memorial Health Care Systems in Kansas City.

Missouri Baptists have experienced exceptional growth during his years as executive director. A crowning achievement of those years is the current missions and ministry partnership Missouri Baptists have with Baptists in the Republic of Belarus, one of the former Soviet republics.

Don's work extends beyond Baptist circles, however. He has been active in civic clubs, Chambers of Commerce and United Way in every community where he has lived.

Don's wife, Marian, has been a faithful partner in his ministry. Three of their four children are in full-time vocational ministry. Another daughter is an active lay leader in her church.

Don Weidman's compassion, humor, and common sense have served Missouri Baptists well in challenging times. His faith and commitment to seek and follow God's will set a great example for denominational leaders across America.

KILDEE SALUTES THE HOUSE OF
SPENCER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. J. Merrill Spencer and his wife Edith Prunty Spencer, who are retiring after 42 years of distinguished service to the residents of Flint, MI as the proprietors of the House of Spencer Mortuary.

Dr. Spencer is a veteran of World War II, and served in the 92d Division known as the Buffalo soldiers. After completing his studies, Dr. Spencer served our community in a number of capacities including, teacher, principal, and postal clerk. The Spencer's founded the House of Spencer Mortuary on November 3, 1955. Dr. Spencer also became a partner in a stock brokerage firm and the Stonehearth Restaurant.

Despite managing several thriving businesses, Dr. Spencer found time to serve on several boards and commissions in Genesee County. He served on the Executive Committee of the Genesee County Democratic Party, the Genesee County Board of Supervisors, was an Alternate Delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and served for 12 years on the Flint Board of Education. As a lifetime member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Fraternity, the Morehouse Alumni Association and the Optimist Club, Dr. Spencer has been dedicated to ensuring that every individual is given equal opportunity. As a mentor, he has encouraged many of our youth to succeed.

Although the accomplishments of Dr. Spencer are impressive, I think he would agree that his marriage to Edith Prunty Spencer is what he is most proud of. Mrs. Spencer has been an inspiration to me for her dedication to literacy. Her love of reading led her to work in a number of positions at the Flint Public Library. She retired as Chief of Public Service from the library in 1987 after 37 years of service.

An active member of the Urban League, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Mrs. Spencer has provided our community with a strong advocate for women. Mrs. Spencer has been recognized by her peers on many occasions for her selfless dedication to making our community a better place. She was the recipient of the Hands of Mercy Award, was recognized by Who's Who of American Women, and was named Alumnae of Year by Wayne State University. I know that Mrs. Spencer was deeply honored when the Flint Public Library named the periodicals department, the "Edith Prunty Spencer Room."

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. and Mrs. J. Merrill Spencer. Their lives should serve as an example to all of us. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to this dynamic couple on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 19, 1997. I ask you and my fellow members of the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the Spencer family all the best in their retirement. They deserve our accolades.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS FAHEY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Elmhurst and Corona, Queens, to pay special tribute to a remarkable individual who has distinguished himself as an exceptional police officer and role model for our young. Thomas Fahey has brought hope to

the lives of many in Elmhurst and Queens by reaching out to the community and helping those in need.

As a decorated 14-year veteran of the New York Police Department, Officer Fahey has always been there for our community and our children—especially in these last 8 years, during which he has served as the youth officer at the 110th precinct in Corona and Elmhurst, Queens. He has helped kids that were in trouble and helped kids stay out of trouble. As a mentor and friend he has inspired countless young men and women to stay in school and strive for a better life.

Officer Fahey has led by example, and there can be no better example than his selfless service during rescue efforts after TWA Flight 800 exploded above Long Island. In fact, he received a decoration from New York City for putting his life at risk to help the families and victims of Flight 800. Thomas Fahey is truly a hero, and his work in the community is a shining example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Thomas Fahey. He inspires those who work with him, and he has earned the devotion of his friends and the gratitude of his community.

IN HONOR OF IDA INEZ BERROCAL
TORRES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Ida Inez Berrocal Torres, who is being honored this evening by the Queens Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Torres has been in the forefront of workers' rights, particularly the rights of women and Hispanic workers. The most accurate portrait of Ms. Torres comes from Ms. Torres herself, as she describes herself as a "worker for workers."

Ms. Torres' involvement in the labor movement covers all facets: she has been an organizer, teacher, leader, and elected union official. Her advocacy work in the labor movement began with her position as a telephone operator in the union. In 1965, after a strike at Bloomingdale's, the workers petitioned that Ida become their union organizer for local 3 of United Storeworkers. In 1977, she was elected vice president of local 3, RWDSU, and continues in that capacity today.

Ida's work also has influence on the national level. She currently represents RWDSU on the national executive board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, serves on the executive board of the New York City Labor Council, and is president of the Hispanic Labor Committee and Advisory Committee to the New York City Central Labor Council.

Ida's role as a teacher has been equally important in the labor movement. She has served as an instructor in labor studies at Cornell University, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the Harry Van Arsdale Center for Labor Studies, State University of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Ida Inez Berrocal Torres. I am honored to have such a great woman and leader in my district.